

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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WORKERS LEFT UNEMPLOYED BY HURRICANE DENNIS MAY STILL APPLY FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, August 1, 2005 Unemployed workers in three southwest Alabama counties declared disaster areas due to Hurricane Dennis still have time to apply for benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program. The affected counties are Baldwin, Mobile, and Escambia.

“DUA benefits may be available to qualified persons who work or live in those three counties and became unemployed, or could not engage in their customary self-employment, as a direct result of Hurricane Dennis,” says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

Claims for DUA may be filed by calling the toll-free telephone number, 1-866-234-5382. Generally, persons who are eligible for state unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but the claimant may qualify for DUA if state UC benefits are exhausted. Self-employed individuals will be requested to provide a copy of their 2004 income tax records.

The final date to file a claim in Baldwin County and Mobile County is August 10, 2005. The final date to file a claim in Escambia County is August 11, 2005.

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of four Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state. Funding is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: www.dir.alabama.gov.